

REMARKS

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 17 and the addition of new claim 19, claims 8, 9, 11, 12, and 14 to 16, 18, and 19 are now pending in the present application, since claims 1 to 7, 10, and 13 were previously canceled. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, and 18 are allowed.

As regards the rejection of claims 14, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, it appears that the rejection was applied to claim 15 in error since it depends from claim 8. As for claims 14 and 17, claim 17 has been canceled, and claim 14 has been amended herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is therefore respectfully requested.

As regards the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as mentioned above, the claim has been canceled thereby rendering moot the present rejection.

Claim 19 has been added herein. Claim 19 does not add new matter and is supported by the present application, including specification, as originally filed. Claim 19 includes subject matter analogous to that of allowed claim 16 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 16.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 8, 9, 11, 12, and 14 to 16, 18, and 19 are allowable.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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